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EDITORIALS*

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND EUROPEAN GRADUATES

Resolutions Regarding Graduates of European Medical Schools.—At the meeting on July 13, 1933, of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California, a resolution, which is appended to these comments, was adopted. The resolution outlines the conditions which the Board of Medical Examiners, by virtue of the powers vested in it through the State Medical Practice Act, has seen fit to demand of all graduates of European medical schools seeking legal license to practice medicine and surgery in California. A perusal of the resolution reveals that it deals with two groups of licensure applicants: one, with American students who have gone abroad to secure there their training and medical degrees, and another, with foreign citizens who, after receiving such medical training abroad, have migrated to America and wish the legal permission to practice in the State of California.

*Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comments column, which follows.

Matriculation Figures of the Scholastic Year 1932-1933.—It may be interesting in this connection to note, first, the extent to which American students are today matriculating in the medical schools of the United States. The figures here given are for the scholastic year 1932-1933: first-year students, 6,426; second-year students, 5,479; third-year students, 5,017; fourth-year students, 4,948; or, for the four classes, a total of 21,870 matriculants for the scholastic year 1932-1933. Not without significance, also, is the fact that when the fall term of 1933 began, a few months ago, there were some 31,429 applications for entrance to first-year classes. To be sure, this large number represented duplications, because some students had applied to two or more schools. There were actually 12,280 different applicants; and of this number, 7,357 were deemed to have satisfactory credentials, but 4,923 applicants were refused. Of 7,357 freshman students admitted last year, 6,426 completed the freshman year work. In this connection it may be stated that there are four Class A medical schools in California: University of California, Stanford University, University of Southern California, and the College of Medical Evangelists; the first two located in San Francisco, and the last two in Los Angeles. All had fourfold or more applicants for admission than could be accepted. It is evident, therefore, that the present-day economic stress has in no way decreased the number of young Americans seeking to prepare themselves for professional careers. Professions other than medicine, such as law and engineering, present figures in line with those given above.

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Many Applicants with Unsatisfactory Credentials Matriculate in European Schools.—It was stated that 4,923 applicants were found to have had unsatisfactory credentials. That the refusal by American institutions failed to daunt many in this rejected group (who probably also had parents possessing means to permit of their training elsewhere) is shown by the fact that eighty-two European medical schools reported a total enrollment of 1,911 American students! This phenomenon of American undergraduates taking their medical training abroad is quite comparatively recent, and has been construed as a "back door" method of securing a medical degree that would make for eligibility to take a state board examination by those whose preliminary education was insufficient for matriculation into American medical schools.

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American Medical Boards Alert to the Menace.—Throughout the United States, members of state medical boards during the last few years have been quite disturbed at this new menace to the medical and licensure standards of the several states. The Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States some time ago passed resolutions of tenor similar to those adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California.